# A LETTER

## From His Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*; written in the Camp at *Quaringnan*, the 18th. of *Auguſt*, 1674. Directed to the Lords in Council, concerning the late Fight.

*My Lords and very good Friends,*

ACcording to our Promiſe( that your Lordſhips may have a more particular Information, of what paſſed in the laſt Engagement with the Enemy,)We let you know; That on the 11th inſtant, we with the Confederate forces, marched from *Senef*; with Intention to Encamp between *Marimont* and *Bingh*, and being to paſſe a ſmall Party of the Prince of *Conde's* Army, we thought good to make a ſupply to the Reer-guard, of Four thouſand Horſe and ſome Dragoons, as well of the Imperial and Spaniſh Troops, as of our own. In the march, the Imperialiſt's had the Van-guard, our own the Middle, and the Spaniſh the Reer-guard; And having marched ſome hours, the Prince of *Vandemont* who Commanded the onſet, gave us to underſtand that ſome of the Enemie's Troops Appeared, and were already Engaged with his; deſiring that there might be ſent him two Battalions of foot, for that the place where he was being very narrow, and the ground much broken, his Horſe could not well fight; Whereupon it was thought good to ſend him three Battalions inſtead of the two he deſired, which were the Regiments of Prince *Maurice* field Marſhal, and of the Young Prince his Nephew, making together three Battalions, under the Command of the latter, They were preſently poſted on either ſide of *Senef*, in a Woody place for the Horſe, and all being Engaged without the Leger: it was thought good that thoſe on the other ſide of the ſmall River that runs by *Senef*, ſhould come back again; and there was placed on the Bridge the three Battalions of Foot, which before were placed in the Wood. The Enemy preſently Attacked them with Foot, Dragoons, and Horſe, who made very good reſiſtance, though whilſt they defended the paſſe, the Enemy got higher up the River. At the ſame time the Horſe drawn forth, and poſted behind the Foot, were but enough to ſuccour them; for by reaſon of the unevenneſs of the ground, they were hard put to it, and were almoſt forced one upon another: and on the other ſide, the Enemy being advanced above them, the Foot retired, which was no ſooner done, but the Enemy made up very ſtoutly upon the Horſe; beginning to place his Squadrons, and to procure his Foot a paſſage along by the hedges, whereupon it was reſolved preſently to charge them before they could get in order; but endeavouring ſo to do, the ſame was found impoſſible by reaſon of a hollow way between both parties.

Fearing that the ſaid ſupply might be cut off, or be Charged in the flanck, there was order given for their marching to the right, that ſo they might joyn with the reſt of the Army; which the Enemy perceiving made to the left, to paſſe by the ſaid hollow way, and advanced with ſuch expedition to Charge the ſame that the Prince of *Van-*

*demont* had time onely to face about three Squadrons which he brought on, One of which Squadrons was of his own Regiment Commanded by his Serjeant Major, and the two others of the *Holſtein* and *Langerac* Regiments Commanded by their own Collonels, the which in the diſpute loſt their three Commanders, and very many of their Officers; four other Squadrons endeavoured to Aſſiſt the firſt, but it was not poſſible for more than two to face about, which yet nevertheleſſe could not Charge, but were with all the reſt put to flight, notwithſtanding all that the ſaid Prince of *Vandemont* could do to the contrary, he therein having expreſt extraordinary Courage and Magnanimity.

Thoſe Soldiers ſo flying, met with no ſtay ſaving only a party of Spaniſh Horſe, which were under a ſmall hill lying between them and a Village called *Fey*, ſo that a party of them rallyed with the ſaid Horſe, Commanded by the Duke *de Villa Hermoſa* their General; who advanced at the Head of his Company againſt the Enemy, and did all that could be expected in ſuch a diſorder, from a perſon of his Merits and Quality. The reſt of the ſaid ſupply rallied with a party of the States Infantry, which were on the ſaid hill, and were of the Regiments of the *Brigade* of *Weede*, ſaving only two Battalions, which were commanded to the Baggage, in the mean time the Enemy ſtedfaſtly purſuing, fell as well upon the Spaniſh Horſe, as upon the ſaid ſupply with whom they rallyed; the Marquis of *Aſſentar* being there, and deſiring four Battalions of the Infantry upon the Hill to ſuccour the ſaid Horſe, the ſame were vouchſafed him, ſo that the Regiments of *Aylva* and *Swartzenburgh* were drawn out with a Battalion of the Regiment of *Tovars*, who were Poſted between the ſaid Horſe and the Hill, amongſt which the Enemy having advanced very many of their Foot by the Hedges and Ditches, they diſordered all the ſaid Horſe.

In the fight the Marquiſs *d' Aſſentar* animated all the Squadrons by his own Example, who did their utmoſt to keep their ſtations, and to repulſe the Enemy; but he fighting with an Extraordinary Courage, received Seven Wounds, of which he dyed: the Horſe being thus in Confuſion, they all ran over the four Battalions that were ſent them, diſordering the Foot, that were upon the Hill, and kept their ſtation there. The *Heer Van Waldeck* being there, did what he could to prevent the diſorder of the Foot, but not being able ſo to do, took a Squadron of the Horſe which a little before he had rallied there, to Charge the Enemy in the flanck before they could fix; but not being followed as he expected, found himſelf amongſt his Enemies, from whom having received three wounds he Eſcaped without being made Priſoner, though laid hands on by two of the Enemies, whom he beat down to the ground. And ſo wounded and bloody as he was, joyned again with the groſs of the Army, to which having got with much difficulty, found himſelf too weak to ſit his Horſe.

Lieutenant General *Aylva* hath alſo ſignally ſhewn himſelf in the ſaid occaſion, the reſt of the Infantry of the State conſiſting of the *Heeſwick*, *Erpach*, and *la Villaumaire* Brigades, amongſt which was Prince *Maurice*; the *Heer Rhinegrave*, and Serjeant General, Major *Vane*, were poſted high upon the other ſide of *Fey*, together with the Imperial Foot, who met there almoſt at the ſame time, and to their praiſe be it ſpoken they there undauntedly withſtood the Enemies fury, and as well the Cheiftaines as Officers and Soldiers, diſcharged their duty to Admiration.

The Enemy at firſt Endeavoured to get round upon the left, but ſome Battallions were drawn out to make oppoſition, and Monſieur de *Chaivaignac* who was there with the groſs of the Imperial horſe Repulſed them with all imaginable Vigour, and kept the Poſt, to which he cauſed four Canon to brought, which did the Enemy much damage; Alſo upon the Right the Enemy uſed no leſſe violence, but to as little

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purpoſe as the former, ſaving onely that about Seven of the Clock in the Evening, they repulſed to one of the Poſts two Battallions of Foot, which had their poſt at a diſtant camp, and preſently ran over the Squadrons that they Succoured, but were forthwith Retarded by the Count of *Naſſaw*, whoſe Service upon this occaſion was very admirable having Rectified the diſorder with no leſſe Conduct than Valour.

Prince *Maurice* therein acted with Magnanimity exceeding his years, and though he ſo lately got clear of a fit of Sickneſſe, (which brought him very low, ſo that he was not as yet quite reſtored,) yet he neglected not to performe all the particulars of his Charge during the whole Fight, not Inferiour to the youngeſt. The Heer *Rhyngrave* was therein likewiſe remarkable among the reſt, and it may be truely ſaid that a great part of the Succeſſe of this Battle is to be attributed to his Courage and good Conduct, being therein very well ſeconded by the Compte *Van Erpach* who in the Concluſion was neceſſitated to Retire by reaſon of a wound in his Thigh; which hindered him from perſorming further Service. Serjeant Major Generall *Vane* and Monſieur *de la Villaumaire* having fought bravely, and done very good Service were both mortally wounded: In the Imperiall Troops the Compt *Souches* gave very remarkable proofs of the Courage and magnanimity which he hath often ſhewn upon many other occaſions. The Prince of *Loraine* hath no leſſe ſignalized himſelf, but being wounded in the Thigh by Prince *Pſó* was at laſt reduced to a Condition of performing no more Service, by a fatall wound in the head. Alſo the vigorous reſiſtance made by the Marqueſs *de Grana*, when before the Village with his Battallion, procured no ſmall part of the happy ſucceſſe of the fight; as well as the Aſſiduity of the Battallions of *Souches* his Regiment, with the Heeren his Sons.

To Conclude, after twelve houres fight, and very many killed and wounded on both ſides, The Enemy Retired to his Leger, and two houres after we to ours; which we had deſigned before the fight. The onely advantage which the Enemy had upon us in this Action was the taking of part of our Baggage. We cannot as yet give your Honours a true account of thoſe dead and taken Priſoners of our ſide, but by the next opportunity ſhall do the ſame.

I commend your Honours to Gods Protection.

In the Camp at *Quaringnan*
the 18 of *Auguſt* 1674.

Your Honours friend to ſerve you,
*G. H. Prince d'Orange.*

**LONDON**, Printed for *Henry Everſden* at the Sign of the *Crown* in *Cornhill*, near the *Stocks-Market*.